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Jesus! Mary! Joseph! Alphonsus!

CLOCK OF THE PASSION;

OR

MANNER OF MEDITATING DEVOUTLY
AND WITH PROFIT

ON THE

PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

At every Hour of the Day and Night.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF
THE VERY REV. JOSEPH PASSERAT,

LATE VICAR-GENERAL OF THE
CONGREGATION OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER.



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THE CLOCK OF THE PASSION.



ACCORDING to the opinion of the Holy Fathers and Doctors of the Church, there is no more efficacious or useful means by which to progress in the way of salvation, than the frequent remembrance of, and meditation on, the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is sufficient for us to know how St. Augustin expresses himself on this subject (Lib. 2. Advers. Manich. c. 22). "I have found," he says, "no more effectual consolation in all my adversities, than the wounds of Jesus Christ. I sleep in them with assurance, and I rest in them without fear. Jesus Christ has died for us. There is nothing so bitter that it may not be made sweet by the death of Christ. All my hope is built on the death of my Lord. His death is my merit, my refuge, my salvation, my life, and my resurrection. The mercy

of our Lord is my merit. I shall not be wanting in merit, as long as our Lord ceases not to be merciful to me; and since the mercies of our Lord are great, my merit is also great. The greater is His power to save us, the safer am I. If this or that unpleasant thought pursues and troubles me, I run to take refuge in the wounds of Jesus Christ. If my evil inclinations weigh me down, I again raise myself by the remembrance of the wounds of my Saviour. If Satan secretly torments me, I confide in the most intimate mercy of my Lord, and He does not forsake me. If the sting of concupiscence attacks me, it is deadened by the remembrance of the wounds of my Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God." . . . Saint Bernard says (Serm. 2 in Epiph.): "As for me, my brothers, from the very commencement of my conversion, perceiving that I was wanting in virtue, I appropriated to myself this nosegay of myrrh, composed of all the sufferings and bitter sorrows of my Saviour, and I fastened it on my breast. As long as I live, its remembrance will never be effaced from my memory. I have found that wisdom consisted in meditating on these things, and I discovered that therein alone were the perfection of justice, the plenitude of science, the riches of salvation, and the abundance of merit. You also, my brothers, should form to yourselves a nosegay of the Passion of Jesus Christ, and adorn your bosom with it, and there let it remain; for if you have it thus before your eyes, meditating on the bitter sorrows of our Lord, you will more easily bear your own sufferings, being assisted by the help of Jesus Christ. May God be blessed through all eternity! Amen."

Let us thence conclude, that our constant efforts should be to keep the Passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ always present to our minds, and to unite all our actions to them; but as this can only be the fruit of special grace, and of long practice, we should first of all begin to exercise ourselves in it, after having divided the Passion and the history of the death of Jesus Christ into twenty-four parts, in order to meditate upon them, either collectively or one by one, at certain times, which should be determined upon beforehand.

The following distribution of hours is intended to facilitate this exercise :

At 6 o'clock in the evening.

After having taken leave of His holy Mother, Jesus celebrates His Last Supper with His Disciples.

Admire the excess of His charity, and at the remembrance of it, thank our Lord Jesus Christ for His sufferings and merits, of which he granted us a share at this time; say to Him with love and devotion :

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which thou didst desire to suffer the dolours of thy Passion! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery. I beseech Thee, by Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 7 o'clock.

Jesus washes the feet of His Disciples, and institutes the Sacrament of His Love.

Admire the humility with which Jesus washed the

feet of His disciples, and His love which induces Him to give himself to us to be our food.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which thou didst institute the divine sacrament of the altar! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I implore Thee, O Jesus! by Thy divine merits, to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 8 o'clock.

Jesus makes His last Discourse after the Supper, and then goes to the Garden of Olives.

Adore the sacred heart of Jesus, all inflamed with the love of men, and giving to His disciples the food of His holy doctrine.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou gavest Thy last instructions, which only breathed the most tender charity, and which were followed by the admirable example of the sacrifice of Thyself! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee through Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 9 o'clock.

Jesus prays with his face on the ground: "O my Father," says He, "if it be possible, let this chalice pass from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Thine be done."

Admire the perfect submission of Jesus.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in

much Thou didst accept with so much love, the chalice of Thy Passion! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee through Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 10 o'clock.

Jesus begins His agony, and sweats blood and water.

Adore the sacred heart of Jesus as the source of eternal life.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe for our sakes to be seized with fear and filled with anguish! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee through Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 11 o'clock.

Jesus is strengthened by an angel.

Adore the Divine Saviour as the truth that enlightens the world, and the life that animates it.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe, for the sake of our weakness, to accept the consolations of an angel! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I implore Thee through Thy Divine merits, O Jesus! to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At Midnight.

Jesus is betrayed by the kiss of Judas, and bound with chains.

Adore the Divine Saviour in His slavery of love.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst choose to be bound, in order to draw us to Thee by the sweet chains of Thy love! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 1 o'clock.

Jesus is led to Annas.

Adore Jesus, as the teacher of truth, reduced by His love to the greatest abasement.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst choose to be delivered up to the fury of wicked men; oh, grant that I may humble myself for the love of Thee! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 2 o'clock.

Jesus is accused before Caiphas, where He receives a blow on His face, and answers meekly to him that struck Him.

Admire the ineffable gentleness of Jesus.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in

which Thou didst choose to suffer this insult, in order to teach us to be meek and humble of heart. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 3 o'clock.

Whilst Jesus is insulted in the prison, He is also denied by St. Peter for the third time.

Admire the profound sorrow of Jesus on seeing Himself forsaken by all His disciples, and beholding the cowardice of St. Peter, and the malice with which the Jews bandage His eyes, and strike Him and turn Him into ridicule.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe by one look of compassion to touch the heart of Thy disciple; oh, do Thou pierce mine with love and sorrow for my sins! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 4 o'clock.

Jesus summoned before the Great Council, is declared worthy of death.

Admire the modesty and the patience of our Divine Saviour.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst choose by Thy silence to suffer

the opprobrium of passing for a blasphemer and for a criminal worthy of death. I adore Thee, O Eternal Word! and I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 5 o'clock.

Jesus is led before Pilate, in whose presence He is accused.

Salute Him and adore Him as your master, your Saviour, and your king.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe, for the love of us, to suffer this fresh outrage. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 6 o'clock.

Jesus, in the presence of Herod, is clothed in a white robe, and treated as a fool.

Adore the Son of God, in whom His divine power is thus veiled.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst choose to be loaded with insults; oh, let my consolation be to be despised for Thy sake! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy di-

vine merits, O Jesus! to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 7 o'clock.

Jesus is conducted back to Pilate, and Barabbas is preferred before Him.

Adore the heart of Jesus, inexhaustible treasure of every good, open to all, and too little known by men.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst choose to suffer this insulting preference. Oh, detach my heart from all created things! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 8 o'clock.

Jesus is cruelly scourged at the pillar, His blood flows on every side.

Admire the immense love to which the wounds of our Saviour bear witness.

Blessed be the hour, O my Saviour Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst choose to be torn by scourges, and to shed Thy precious blood in order to blot out my sins. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 9 o'clock.

Jesus is crowned with thorns, and afterwards insulted by the soldiers.

Adore the divine King of your heart, in this cruel state in which He suffers for you.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe to suffer this painful crowning for our sakes! Oh, pierce my heart with sorrow and regret for having offended Thee! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 10 o'clock.

Pilate condemns Jesus to death, and abandons Him to the cruelty of the Jews.

Adore the Holy of holies, treated as a criminal, and led to Calvary with the Cross on His shoulders.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe, for the love of us, to be condemned to death, and delivered up to thy cruel enemies. Thou didst then walk laden with a heavy cross, in order to help me to carry mine with patience; I thank Thee for it, I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 11 o'clock.

Jesus is stripped of His garments and fastened to the Cross.

Adore this Divine Lamb, immolated as a victim on the altar of the Cross.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst choose to be stripped of Thy garments and sacrificed as a lamb that is slain, to be offered in Holocaust. Oh, give me a heart capable of returning this great love! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At Noon.

Jesus prays for His executioners, and promises Paradise to the good thief.

Adore the Divine Shepherd, who gives His life for His sheep.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe to give Thyself up as a victim of expiation for us; oh, may Thy cross soften Thy judgment, and comfort my soul at the hour of my death! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I implore Thee through Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 1 o'clock.

Jesus offers His Soul up to His Divine Father, and recommends His holy Mother to His beloved disciple, whom He also recommends to His holy Mother.

Admire the entire resignation of our most holy Redeemer upon the Cross; give Him eternal thanksgiving for the love which induced Him to entrust us in the person of St. John to the care of His Divine Mother.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst ordain that Mary should become our Mother! Oh, grant that the love of Thee and of her may inflame my heart! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus! to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 2 o'clock.

Jesus cries out, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Then He says, "I thirst;" and having taken the vinegar, He says, "It is consummated."

Admire the inalterable patience of the Son of God, and sympathise with this burning thirst which He feels for our salvation.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe to give us such touching examples of resignation and of zeal for the salvation of souls, and for the accomplishment of the will of Thy

heavenly Father. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery ; and I beseech Thee, through Thy divine merits, O Jesus ! to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 3 o'clock.

*Jesus crying out with a loud voice, bends down
His head and expires.*

Admire the last sigh of God your Saviour, and the sacrifice that He makes of Himself on the Cross for our salvation.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou didst vouchsafe to die for us, in order to consummate the great work of our redemption. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery ; and I beseech Thee, through Thy Divine merits, O Jesus ! to remember me at the hour of my death and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 4 o'clock.

A soldier pierces the sacred side of Jesus with a lance, after which, Joseph and Nicodemus take down His holy Body from the Cross, and place it in the arms of His afflicted Mother.

Adore this sacred wound, from which flowed forth blood and water.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, in which Thou wert pleased, through Thy wound, to open to us Thy sacred heart, the source of salvation and grace ; oh, let Thy divine unction flow upon us

through the hands of Mary, to whom Thou didst leave us as her adopted children! I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy Divine merits, O Jesus! to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

At 5 o'clock.

Jesus is placed in the holy Sepulchre.

Adore Jesus Christ, who remains in our tabernacle as it were inclosed in a holy sepulchre.

Blessed be the hour, O my Lord Jesus Christ, which Thou wert pleased to resign Thyself into the hands of Joseph and Nicodemus to be buried, which foreshewed so well the generosity with which Thou dost abandon Thyself into the hands of the priests, in order that Thou mayest Thy own self provide the better for my wants. O my Jesus! grant me a share in the compassion of Thy holy Mother, and give me with the courage of Thy two disciples against human respect; but above all give me the ardent love of Mary Magdalen, in order that I may seek Thee until I have found Thee risen again to die no more. I unite all my actions and all my sufferings to this adorable mystery; and I beseech Thee, through Thy Divine merits, O Jesus! to vouchsafe to remember me at the hour of my death, and to grant me pardon and mercy.

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